



Shasta Children and Families First Commission

Advisory Committee Members

(February 3, 2004)

Jenny Abbe Moyer (charter member, February 2001)

Jenny and her husband are parents of six-year-old Paul, who was born prematurely at 29 weeks gestation, weighing 2 lbs. 10 oz. Jenny is active in a local child-parent playgroup and is a strong advocate of breastfeeding especially for mothers of preemies who often do not receive the encouragement they need. She attended the SCFFC public hearing on its *Strategic Plan*, submitted written comments, and has stayed abreast of our progress.

Jenny is a former Bay Area speechwriter and newspaper reporter who received the John Swett Merit Award for excellence in educational reporting. Her experience includes copywriting for advertising brochures and a variety of marketing publications. She has written, produced, researched, and edited videos in partnership with award-winning producers, including work on *In Light of Reverence* about sacred Native American sites. Jenny also has written a book, *Tools for Change*, which showcases teachers and schools who successfully have incorporated technology into K-12 programs. Jenny also served as the editor of *The Covered Wagon*, an annual publication of the Shasta Historical Society.

Gloria Espinosa-Hall (appointed March 2003)

Gloria was recommended for membership on the committee by the Northern Hispanic-Latino Coalition. As a member of the Coalition, she represents the Hispanic-Latino community in Shasta County. Gloria holds a masters degree in nutrition and health education and is currently the Nutrition, Family & Consumer Sciences Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension, Shasta and Trinity Counties. Previously, she has worked in the area of maternal and child health with WIC, Comprehensive Peri-natal Programs and Head Start. She is co-author of the "Maternal and Infant Nutrition Bilingual Counseling" handbook, which aids health care professionals in counseling Spanish-speaking clients.

Gloria is the chair of the Shasta Coalition for Activity and Nutrition (Shasta CAN), a Shasta Head Start board member, a member of Shasta County's Food Group and the Shasta County Local Child Care Planning Council.

Barbara Lapp (charter member, February 28, 2001)

Barbara represents the Shasta Children and Families First Commission. She has served on the Commission since its inception in March 1999. Prior to her retirement as an early childhood educator, Barbara was the teacher/director of the Redding Cooperative Preschool and an instructor at Shasta College. She currently sits on the Local Child Care Planning Council, is a member of the Association for the Education of Young Children, and has served as co-president of the League of Women Voters.

Barbara believes that young children deserve our strongest commitment since what happens to these children is important to all of us in the community.

Lynn Miller (charter member, February 2001)

Lynn is President of the Burney Chamber of Commerce and serves as a member of Intermountain Action Growth and Education (IMAGE). She lives in Burney and continues to own a property management business in the Bay Area.

Lynn sees a fiduciary responsibility to ensuring that public funds are spent well. She wants to see where tax dollars go and how they are spent to make a difference. She believes that this *new idea* of investing in our youngest children can prevent the increasing need for jails...it will allow a different script to be written and a different blueprint to be drawn. She believes that parents and families of all socio-economic levels must be addressed and has interest in ensuring that access for the middle-income families is increased. She also believes that increased child care opportunities help the community as a whole, including area employers. Lynn sees the current emphasis on prenatal to 5 year old development as prevention of future problems and that it might be the answer to what we are facing as a country.

Nora McNeill, RN, LM (appointed March 2003)

Nora is a registered nurse and licensed midwife in the state of California. She was previously employed in a variety of nursing positions in the Redding area, including a position with the Shasta Community Health Center as nurse-educator and then director of the Women's Health Department, which she formed to coordinate services and educate the female patient population. She was the co-founder of BEAR (Birth Education Association of Redding), acted as a volunteer childbirth education instructor for the Crisis Pregnancy Center, and served on the Area 1 Perinatal Council. Nora currently serves on the Shasta County Breastfeeding Coalition and is a member of the Northern California Breast and Cervical Cancer Partnership Steering Committee. She has also traveled to Mexico with a medical missions team to provide pregnancy, breastfeeding and family planning education to rural women.

Nora says that "The goals of the Commission are parallel to those that I have pursued during my 27 years of midwifery practice. I would welcome the opportunity to promote those goals...."

Charles Menoher, Ed.D. (appointed March 2003)

Charlie is almost a life-long resident of Shasta County. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Youth Violence Prevention Council of Shasta County and on the board of PlusONE Mentors, Inc. He is an associate faculty member at National University, Redding. He has an extensive background in education, as a teacher, principal, school district superintendent and, most recently, served two consecutive terms as Shasta County Superintendent of Schools. In that role, he had the opportunity to increase his knowledge and appreciation for early childhood issues and programs while working with the Early Childhood Services department of the Shasta County Office of Education. Charlie has been an active member of a long list of community service organizations and was the recipient of the 2001 Social Justice Award from the Shasta County Citizens Against Racism. In addition to his professional pursuits, he is currently a mentor to three brothers and their cousin.

"Reducing the developmental assaults on our children and increasing the resources and support that surround them is critical to their success in school and their quality of life," says Charlie. He believes that "the Shasta Children and Families First Commission is a prime player in this important work."

Jane Nelson (appointed January 2004)

Jane has been a Redding resident for 56 years. She is a retired teacher, having taught all grade levels, preschool through college. She was a teacher at Redding Cooperative Preschool for fifteen years, a Resource Specialist for fourteen years, and taught Child Development classes at Shasta College. She holds a B.A. in Child Development, an M.A. in Special Education and Curriculum, and has five teaching credentials.

Jane is a member of many local, state and national organizations. She is a member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters and Wesley Neighborhood, Inc. As a League member, she was directly involved in the study of local adult mental health issues and with the "Children at Risk Study". Jane is an active participant in the local business and political sectors and is eager to assist in increasing the Commission's contact with these groups. She appreciates the evolving nature of the Commission's efforts and believes access to health care, preschool and other services will be issues of primary concern for SCFFC in the future.

Tara Swanson (appointed March 2003)

Tara has worked as a Speech and Language Pathologist with the Shasta County Office of Education, Early Intervention Program since its inception in 1986. Her past employment includes running the Speech Improvement Lab as a contract employee with Shasta College, work as a speech pathologist and as a resource room teacher. She is an active member of the Redding Branch of the American Association of University Women, currently chairs the Tech Trek Program (sending 7th grade girls to a Math and Science Camp), and is active in the Pilgrim Congregational church.

"Working with young children and their families has been a passion of mine since my undergraduate days at the University of Redlands," says Tara. "It was at Redlands that I discovered working to help others, children in particular, was what I wanted to do with my life. I have never regretted my decision." She believes her participation on the committee would be based on "making careful and insightful deliberations on early childhood and related issues."

Jolene Thomas (appointed September 2001)

Jolene is the Coordinator for the Shasta County Local Child Care Planning Council (LCCPC) and brings broad knowledge to the committee of child care trends and needs at the state and local levels. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration and has been professionally active in the field of Child Development since 1991. Additionally, Jolene serves on the State Children and Families First PACE Initiative, is a trainer of infant/toddler caregivers, and serves on the board of the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Jolene has a strong interest in meeting the needs of children under the age of five and their families and, as a result, is interested in working with the Commission. She was an active participant in the SCFFC Strategic Planning process and a regular attendee at SCFFC meetings.

Pam Tupper (charter member, February 2001)

Pam lives in Shingletown and has been a resident of Shasta County for 38 years. She worked in the private health care sector for 14 years before entering the world of community health care. Pam is the previous Director of the Shingletown Health Clinic and currently serves as the Director of the Shasta Consortium of Community Health Centers (SCCHC), an advocacy and coordinating entity for rural health clinics in far northern California counties. She is a persistent voice on behalf of oral health, particularly with regards to young children.

Pam attends SCFFC meetings on a regular basis and served as a member of the SCFFC Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, participated in the Commission's Redding provider focus group and in the Shingletown focus group, offering input into the *Strategic Plan*.